

MINUTES
NEVADA COMMISSION ON HOMELAND SECURITY
THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2004 9 A.M.-12 P.M.

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE: Chairman Jerry Bussell, Vice-Chairman Jerry Keller, Lt. John Alamshaw, Sheriff Dennis Balaam, Richard Brenner, Tod Carlini, Dr. Dale Carrison, Mayor Robert Cashell, Robert Hadfield, Ellen Knowlton, Maria Lipscomb, Chuc Lowden, Chief Michael Mayberry, Maureen Peckman, Jack Staley, Doyle Sutton, Giles Vanderhoof, Judge Larma Volk, Sheriff William Young, Senator Dennis Nolan

ABSENT COMMISSIONERS: Robert Fisher, Kimberly McDonald (attending the City of the State event), Councilman Lawrence Weekly, Assemblyman William Horne

ITEM #1: Call to Order/Opening Remarks Chairman Bussell

- Meeting called to order by Chairman Bussell
- Ms. Lindsay Eaton took roll, determined a quorum was available for the meeting
- old business-to be taken up later in meeting

ITEM #4 State Strategic Plan Review (Kamala Carmazzi)

- suggestions to change language, under goals/objectives...add coordination with DEM
- motion made by Jerry Keller to include words "in coordination with" each of the goal sections
 - motion passed unanimously
- goal: work cooperatively not competitively
- Glaring deficiencies of the SHSS plan:
 - Dr. Carrison: noted that medical was not included in SHSS plan; felt that a medical component should be added to the plan
 - Dr. Carrison agreed to draft plan (medical goals and objectives) and get to SAA
 - Carmazzi complied
 - Bussell: a section on Cyberterrorism needed to be included in the plan
 - Carmazzi: requested that proposed language be provided to amend SHSS plan
 - An additional issue raised with Goal #2 Communications interoperability; a 9-11 response should be included in the language of that goal
 - Section #5: Evaluation Plan- need to look at percentage of compliance: look at outcome of evaluation, level of proficiency
 - the need for compatible equipment: all equipment must be dual-use (use in interim and in future in case of attack)
 - need to prioritize rank of training courses; identify # and type of training needed in some scheme (what have we accomplished and what do we need to accomplish in terms of training)
 - Carmazzi noted that training and exercise are combined in a single pot of money: the portion of funds to be determined for training and exercise is something that needs to be addressed in the future by the Commission
- motion as amended: amendment will include Health and Cyberterrorism components to the SHSS plan
 - Jerry Keller so moved
 - motion passed unanimously

ITEM #3: Compliance with AB 250 (Kamala Carmazzi)

Carmazzi: hotels that must comply with AB 250 must meet the following requirements: 200+ rooms, 24 hr restaurant 7days/week that seats 60+; bar with 30 or more patrons, and gaming (handout provided)

- need to contact hotels to determine if have bar and restaurant
- Currently a 50% compliance rate exists; that could adjust down given the requirements associated with AB 250.
- Problem: plan had to be filed with Local Emergency Management and not the state; has been rectified

DEM has not drafted a letter to all resorts yet; want to get a list put together first, working to develop a standardized plan for the resort/hotels

Is there a set protocol to carry out these plans-can DEM handle this list to ensure compliance?

This is an unfunded mandate, DEM is working as best as it can. 139 plans need to be reviewed- don't have the staff to do it, but have a process in place and will follow up with them (hotels) in writing. Only issue: timeliness.

Emergency response plan required by OSHA-every property has something in place to meet OSHA effort;

Carmazzi: language under AB 250 does not task DEM or Fire Departments with specific responsibilities with the plans; look at coordination in the future with local fire and police

Myler: the By-Laws subcommittee discussed lack of instruction to DEM by legislation-will be discussed in next legislature. Bylaws will also look at penalties for noncompliance as well.

Bussell: personally thanked Kamala Carmazzi for her personal time and efforts dedicated to this issue (SHSS plan)

OLD BUSINESS: Communications Update- Terry Savage, Mark Blomstrom (DOIT)

-Not much change in Communications status-expect approval from Interim Finance Subcommittee for requirements to study interoperability

ITEM # 2: Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC) overview

Jim Lopey (North-Washoe County), Jim O'Brien (South-Clark County)

-Lopey gave a brief overview regarding the function of the LEPC, its membership, and primary duties. It has been his experience that the LEPC is the only organization where all the multi-discipline agencies work well together in Washoe County.

CHAIRMAN CALLED A 10 MINUTE BREAK

MEETING CALLED BACK TO ORDER AT 9:50 A.M.

Jim O'Brien (South-Clark County) gave a thorough overview of the Clark County of the LEPC. (handouts and powerpoint presentation given)

Bussell opened it up for questions.

Mr. Tod Carlini stated the Clark County LEPC served as a guide for many LEPC's. He expressed concerns at how funds are channeled through the LEPC's, and wanted to know if that issue could be dealt with in Clark County and not all local LEPC's. Chairman Bussell commented that the funding issue needs to be discussed by the Finance Subcommittee.

Additional comments about the Clark County LEPC:

- the focus should shift from planning to prevention (success is keeping an incident from happening);
- hospital surge capacity is not addressed under the urban area strategy; Board of County Commissioners has adopted an Incident Command System;
- coordination with other LEPCs (neighboring jurisdictions) in place by working with a tri-state area exercise;
- the importance and need of having a media representative on the LEPC was stressed and acknowledged;
- LEPC abides by the Open Meeting Law, but unsure if LEPC can close a meeting if an issue is so sensitive that it needs to close the meeting

ITEM #5 SUBCOMMITTEE COMMENTS

BY-LAWS: met and discussed AB441/250 and discussed proposed changes to both laws; look to add a mission statement and an overview of all subcommittees; working on getting another meeting together; discussed proposed new legislation with background check; want to confer with the administration and make sure that bill drafts are submitted in advance on time

EMERGENCY RESPONSE: no meeting as of this point; identified 5 objectives and added additional members as well as Ex-Officio member and legal counsel; some of the objectives are already defined in the state strategic plan; intend to follow the plan closely; identified that a direct inter-relationship exists between Emergency Response and Health, Communication, and Finance

GOVERNMENT IDENTIFICATION: no meeting as of yet; NV DMV is the center for all issues of state identification; NV made changes in 2002 with digitized licenses and has recognized that many states do not have the requirements that NV has; NV doesn't accept licenses transferred from 23 other states that do not meet NV requirements; everyone must have verifiable documents to obtain a NV driver's license; NV DMV employees are being trained to recognize false documents; looks to address confidentiality issues

HEALTH: no meeting as of yet; finalizing the membership of the committee; efforts spent to address the level of the committee from the hospital standpoint; working on a draft proposal for the state strategic plan

PUBLIC INFORMATION: Governor's office created the JIC (Joint Information Center)-propose that members of the Commission become part of that group; look at the filtering of all public information possibilities

TOURISM: look to address 5 areas- 1) create a process by which to develop a committee membership list; 2) 1st step-work with NV Resort Security Industry to develop a critical infrastructure assessment document; 3) develop a structure document to be used by the resorts to fulfill the requirements of AB 250; 4) Leverage strength of tourism to enhance the fair share of funding of tax dollars; and 5) assist and facilitate the federal funding grant process to provide common training in terrorist tactics

FUNDING OUTREACH: nothing to report

COMMUNICATIONS: plan and timeline in place; old committee merging into new one

UTILITIES: no meeting as of yet; open to volunteers for this committee

INTELLIGENCE: telephonic meeting; talked about expanding membership-Washoe Co. Sheriff's Office, U.S. Attorney's Office; tasked the NV Regional Intelligence Center with developing and updating a threat assessment for Nevada so that information can be shared in an unclassified manner; tasked with a mechanism to rapidly share information to appropriate entities; asked Sharon Lever to give overview of NEONN at next meeting; in process of developing a committee membership that includes obtaining and updating security clearances; Scott McHugh was recommended by Chairman Bussell to sit on the Intelligence Subcommittee

CYBERTERRORISM: working to identify objectives and priorities (6 objectives); looking to define cyberterrorism so that the public understands this concept; will cover both hardware and software aspects of cyberterrorism

AGRICULTURE: proposed list of committee members (handout); cross section of dairy, farm, state veterinarian, potato producers/process plant in Winnemucca; haven't had a meeting as of yet (scheduled for first of next month); will follow the fertilizer regulation change as relates to homeland security and the Commission

FINANCE: no official meeting as of yet-it's a work in progress; looking at people from respective regions; Feb. 29th will be a conference call for that subcommittee

SUBCOMMITTEE CONCERNS: law enforcement not adequately represented on the Emergency Response subcommittee-the idea was raised by Vice Chairman Keller to create another subcommittee on law enforcement that represents both the North and South; Balaam would work with Sheriff Young to coordinate the North and the South

Motion so moved by Keller

Motion passed unanimously

Young would have a report ready for next meeting

Carlini asked for clarification-is law enforcement excluded from Emergency Response subcommittee?

Vice Chairman Keller thought that a law enforcement report each meeting would be necessary as well as keeping a law enforcement component on Emergency Response

Sheriff Balaam proposed that the law enforcement subcommittee would work hand-in-hand with Emergency Response subcommittee

April 1st meeting will be in Las Vegas and not be video conferenced; all Commissioners would be in Las Vegas to maintain communications and coordination

Chuc Lowden moved to have one subcommittee; Doyle Sutton seconded that motion

Dr. Carrison voted for 2 committees because law enforcement is worthy of its own committee

Mayor Cashell in favor of one committee

Tod Carlini stated that he was open to Sheriff Young providing additional representation of law enforcement to Emergency Subcommittee

Chairman Bussell asked to table the motion to work out this one-two committee issue

Made a motion to table the motion

Dr. Carrison motioned to table the motion until the next meeting

Motion passed unanimously

ITEM #6: PUBLIC COMMENT

-Richard DePaso-has a video production company; gave a brief overview of the the planning program "Shelter In"

NEXT MEETING: April 1st 2004

Subcommittee requirements due January 30, 2004

ITEM #7: ADJOURNMENT

-Chairman Bussell adjourned the meeting at 11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsay Eaton,
Administrative Assistant
Nevada Homeland Security

